

Climate Summit

Insight Report

Report Date: July 2022

Report author:
Sarah Pedder
Senior Consultation Officer

Contact
Hackney Consultation Team
on 020 8356 3343 or
consultation@Hackney.gov.uk

have  say

 **Hackney**

Introduction	3
Background	3
Engagement Methodology	5
Response rate	6
Pre-Engagement Survey	7
Executive Summary	7
Climate Summit Event Insight	9
Workshop Insight	9
Executive Summary	9
Workshop 1: Consumption & Waste	11
Discussion question 1: Alternatives	11
Discussion question 2: Challenges	13
Discussion question 3: The Council	14
Workshop 2: Homes	17
Discussion question 1: Alternatives	17
Discussion question 2: Challenges	19
Discussion question 3: The Council	20
Zoom Insight	23
Feedback Survey	26
Executive Summary	26
Next Steps	29
Lessons learned	29

Introduction

Hackney Council delivered its first ever climate summit to start gathering residents' views on how Hackney can significantly reduce carbon emissions borough-wide. These views will feed into the Climate Action Plan for public consultation later this year.

The climate summit was a three hour online event that focused on two themes from the Climate Action Plan: consumption and homes.

The strategy for the summit included pre-engagement with residents and participants, a climate summit featuring presentations by consultant partners Buro Happold and Square Gain on Hackney & the Climate Crisis, workshops and group discussions around the Climate Action Plan themes, followed by post-engagement with participants and recommendations based on summit insight.

Background

Hackney Council has an ambitious vision to rebuild a greener Hackney in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, and has led some of the UK's most innovative interventions to improve air quality, reduce motor vehicle traffic and emissions, and encourage its residents to change their behaviour to tackle climate change.

In 2019, we declared a climate emergency - using benchmarks set out in the 2018 UN IPCC report, committing us to a 45% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2040. Embodied carbon from our own developments is included within this target.

Details of our activities from the last 12 months can be found in the Annual update on progress with decarbonisation commitments which is part of the agenda for the Council meeting on 20th July 2022.

Hackney's Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Hackney is currently developing a CAP which aligns with the themes of the London Councils London-wide Climate Action Plans.¹ These were adopted based on London Councils extensive review of published local authority plans and feedback from their members.

¹ Thematic CAPs include: Retrofit, Low Carbon Development, Renewable Energy, Low Carbon Transport, Consumption Based Emissions, Green Economy and Just Transition, and Resilient and Green

The thematic topic areas are set out below:

- Retrofit Hackney
- Low Carbon Development
- Renewable Energy for Hackney
- Low Carbon Transport
- Consumption emissions
- Green Economy and Just transition
- Resilient and Green

Thematic CAP development is following a process that includes an assessment for each theme, developing actions which are ambitious, impactful, based on available evidence and for delivery over the next three years.

The period of three years for the CAP has been selected to:

- provide a sharper focus on the key actions we need now to maintain momentum;
- identify actions that will enable us to scale our activities for the period post the initial three year plan robustly; and
- recognise that the technology and costs associated with net zero actions are changing rapidly which may impact on future delivery approaches.

Community Engagement

In the last 18 months, the Council has led a mix of project-based statutory consultations and broader digital and place-based resident engagement on its Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, School Streets, Parking Enforcement Plan and other walking and cycling proposals. This work has seen thousands of specific responses to consultations, broader feedback about our ambitions and genuine conversations between councillors, council officers, residents, businesses and activists. In particular, the Council used an online platform (Commonplace) to seek broad resident feedback, and has heavily promoted this throughout all of its communications since 2020.

In addition to these projects, the Council has worked with already-engaged residents, external stakeholders and experts and local groups on its Air Quality Action Plan, Local Nature Recovery Plan and other climate-specific strategies in the last two years.

Although the length of the pandemic has hampered the degree of direct engagement undertaken to date, we do recognise the need for a more structured long-term response to engagement of residents and other key stakeholders. As we emerge from the pandemic we are now better placed to take this forward and the development of our Climate Action Plan provides a good opportunity to

anchor it to practically shaping action and how we need to collaborate with others to respond to what is a boroughwide challenge.

Climate Summit: March 2022

The climate summit was developed to reflect the requirement to hold a Citizens' Assembly in Hackney as part of our [Climate Emergency Motion in 2019](#).

Engagement Methodology

The climate summit followed some of the guiding principles for Citizens' Assemblies:

- Presentations by experts covering the range of views and evidence on the topic(s)
- Broadly demographically-representative participants drawn from the wider Hackney population
- Reimbursement of participants in recognition of their time and contribution

Following these principles, climate summit participants were recruited via Hackney Matters, Hackney Council's citizen's panel of over 1000 residents. The aim was to recruit a minimum of 50 participants who were as demographically representative of the borough as possible, compared to 2011 Census data. At the time of planning, the 2021 Census data was not available.

All Hackney Matters panel members were invited to pre-register their interest in the climate summit. Following a gap assessment of the pre-registered participants in comparison to borough-wide demographic profile, further invitations went out via stakeholder networks to recruit additional participants. The ONS 2011 Census data used was the most detailed and accurate demographic data available at the time, however this data was used with an understanding of legitimate concerns regarding the ONS ethnicity categories. A reminder about the event was also sent to the wider Hackney Matters panel to encourage more people to pre-register.

The time and date of the event was chosen to enable as many participants to take part as possible, avoiding days of worship and school pick-up times. For this reason, the event was scheduled for Thursday 3rd March, 12pm-3pm. Once the date of the event was confirmed, the first cohort of 54 pre-registered Hackney Panel members were invited to attend the event.

A second cohort of 61 Hackney Matters panel members pre-registered their interest in attending the climate summit following the panel reminder and announcement of the event date. From this cohort, participants were selected

and invited to increase representation of groups underrepresented in the first cohort of participants.

Invited participants were required to register on Zoom ahead of the event. 57 invited residents registered on Zoom to take part in the climate summit. 43 participants attended on the day. Mayor Philip Glanville, Councillor Mete Coban and 25 staff and facilitators attended from the Council. A journalist from Hackney Citizen was also in attendance to observe the event.

Hackney Matters panel members collect points for engagement and are compensated for their involvement in focus groups and consultation events. All participants were offered £40 in vouchers for taking part in the climate summit.

Pre-engagement reading materials were shared with participants ahead of the event to give participants an introduction to climate change.

Participants were asked to complete a pre-engagement survey ahead of the climate summit to share their understanding of climate change and the actions that can be taken to limit its impact. The survey was hosted on Citizen Space, the Council's engagement platform and ran from 7th February to 27th February 2022. (<https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/communications-and-consultation/e0462076>)

Following the event, participants were asked to complete a feedback survey. The survey was hosted on Citizen Space and ran from 16th March to 3rd April 2022. (<https://consultation.hackney.gov.uk/communications-and-consultation/ce0a187b/>)

Response rate

A total of 38 respondents took part in the pre-engagement survey.

A total of 43 participants attended the climate summit on the day.

A total of 24 respondents took part in the feedback survey.

Pre-Engagement Survey

Executive Summary

- **How aware or unaware are you of climate change?**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 61% (23), stated that they were very aware of climate change.
- **How concerned or unconcerned are you about climate change?**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 74% (28), stated that they were very concerned about climate change.
 - Due to an error in the survey, respondents did not have an option to select “very unconcerned.” Instead, they were given two options to select “very concerned” in addition to the options to respond “somewhat concerned,” “neither concerned nor unconcerned,” and “not at all concerned.” Each of the two “very concerned” response options were selected by 28 respondents.
- **Has your level of concern over climate change changed in the last 12 months?**
 - Just over half of respondents, 53% (20), stated that their level of concern over climate change had changed in the last 12 months.
- **How motivated or unmotivated are you to help limit climate change?**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 61% (23), stated that they were very motivated to help limit climate change.
- **How much do the following factors motivate you to help limit climate change?**
 - “Environmental impacts around the world (e.g. forest fires, droughts, floods)” was the response option with the highest ranking.
- **"Climate change affects my decision-making in my day-to-day life."**
 - The highest percentage of respondents, just under 45% (17), stated that they strongly agree with the statement.
- **In what types of decisions is climate change a factor for you?**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 82% (31), stated that climate change is a factor in “day to day purchasing decisions (such as routine shopping, eating or buying clothes.)”
- **Where do you find information about how to help limit climate change?**
 - The majority of respondents, just over 84% (32), stated that they find information on how to limit climate change from media (television, radio, newspapers.)
- **How much of a contribution to climate change do you think the following sectors make?**
 - **Food:** The highest percentage of respondents, just under 45% (17), stated food makes a very large contribution.

- **Transport:** The highest percentage of respondents, just over 47% (18), stated that transport makes a very large contribution.
- **Flying:** The majority of respondents, just under 61% (23), stated that flying makes a very large contribution.
- **Buildings:** The highest percentage of respondents, just over 34% (13), stated that buildings make a very large contribution.
- **Homes:** The highest percentage of respondents, just over 26% (10), stated that homes make a very large contribution.
- **Products and services you buy as a consumer:** The highest percentage of respondents, just under 32% (12), stated that products and services you buy as a consumer make a moderate contribution.
- **Leisure activities:** The highest percentage of respondents, just over 34% (13), stated that leisure activities make a moderate contribution.
- **What are the main barriers to you taking action to limit climate change?**
 - The highest percentage of respondents, just under 45% (17), stated that “it is too expensive” is the main barrier to taking action to limit climate change.
- **Do you feel your day-to-day life in London has been impacted by changing climate, for example in terms of heat waves or flooding?**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 66% (25), stated that they feel their day-to-day life in London has been impacted by climate change.
- **Who do you think is responsible for preventing and adapting to climate change in Hackney?**
 - “National government” was ranked by respondents as the group most responsible for preventing and adapting to climate change in Hackney.
- **Do you think COVID-19 has made it financially more difficult for you to take action to help prevent climate change?**
 - The majority of respondents, just over 71% (27), stated that they did not think that Covid-19 made it financially more difficult for them to take action to prevent climate change.
- **Which methods of transport do you use most often?**
 - The majority of respondents, just under 90% (34), stated that they walk most often.

Climate Summit Event Insight

Workshop Insight

During the climate summit, participants took part in two workshops, the first on consumption and waste and the second on homes. Participants were divided into five breakout groups, accompanied by a facilitator and a notetaker. Each workshop was 30 minutes long and consisted of a scenario, three tasks and participant discussion.

The aim of the workshops was to understand the challenges faced by residents in reducing carbon emissions in two key areas as highlighted by Hackney Council's Carbon Action Plan.

Executive Summary

Workshop 1: Consumption & waste

Participants discussed how Hackney and its residents could reduce its carbon footprint of consumption by two-thirds:

- Challenging the culture of consumption, the need to encourage people to use items for longer and buy less frequently. Residents suggested the Council could limit advertising and work with and lobby companies to enact change.
- Grassroots actions to engage multiple generations.
- Sustainable food production to decrease waste, carbon emissions and promote community growing schemes.
- Repair and mend initiatives to enable residents to repair household items.
- Shared ownership initiatives, including a library of things and hiring hubs.
- More recycling facilities and incentives to recycle for businesses and residents.
- Promotion of second hand clothing shops and clothes banks.
- Educating children about sustainability in schools.
- Workshops and classes to show residents how to reduce waste and repair items.
- Financial actions such as divesting Council pensions.
- Sustainable changes to Council services such as catering services and area regeneration.

Workshop 2: Homes

Participants discussed how residents could reduce energy use, carbon emissions and bills in their homes:

- Rent controls on retrofitted properties and the need for the Council to work with private landlords and advocate for private housing tenants.
- Information and education on actions to reduce emissions at home including energy saving changes to homes such as solar panels, windows and glazing, lightbulbs, heating and insulation, and draft proofing
- Actions residents can take such as water saving actions, mending and repairing household items, energy saving actions.
- Council provided education and information for residents.
- The limitations of individual actions for renters, in addition to accessibility challenges.
- The cost of home improvements, energy saving measures and planning and conservation restrictions.
- The need for national government actions.
- The Council's responsibility to take action, the need for Council support and the need for investment to support residents and make homes more energy efficient.

Workshop 1: Consumption & Waste

Looking at the carbon emissions and waste that come from the production and disposal of the things that we buy. Participants were given a scenario and three discussion questions. Participants were asked to discuss the scenario and questions from two angles:

- What actions can we individually take?
- What influence does the council have?

Scenario 1:

“Thinking back to the one planet target we discussed earlier, imagine that resources are finite and the global population now has to reduce its carbon footprint of consumption by two thirds. Exploring down to the level of our community in Hackney, what are the changes that people could make to achieve this? As this is a vast topic, we’d like you to focus your thoughts on food, clothes and electricals.”

For each discussion question, breakout groups discussed the following themes.

Discussion question 1: Alternatives

In the scenario outlined, how do you think people could reduce the carbon footprint of things that they buy, focusing on clothes, food, and electricals?

- **Culture of consumption**
 - Breakout group 1 discussed breaking the culture of consumption and encouraging people to use items for as long as possible rather than regularly upgrading items such as phones.
 - Breakout group 2 suggested encouraging fewer home renovations which involve the disposal of kitchens and appliances and discussed the role of advertising in generating demand for new products.
 - Breakout group 3 suggested encouraging people to buy less. As part of this, the group discussed the need for systemic change and suggested working with fast fashion companies, supporting innovation in companies, and encouraging consumers to respect the clothing they own. The group also discussed the role of global capitalism and the need to change the mindset of people wanting new things.
 - Breakout group 4 discussed the need for political and national level campaigns to discourage throwaway culture in society. The group also considered what role Hackney Council could take to discourage throwaway culture.

- **Encouraging younger generations to engage with sustainability using grassroots tactics**
 - Breakout group 1 considered younger people an “upgrade generation” and suggested promoting sustainability among younger generations.
- **Food**
 - Breakout group 1 discussed the connection between food and health and the need to make people aware of possible lifestyle changes, such as reducing red meat consumption. The group also questioned the accessibility of alternative food choices.
 - Breakout group 2 suggested local food production to decrease production waste and transport emissions. The group suggested multiple Council actions such as vegan catering contracts to reduce red meat carbon contributions. The group also discussed having community fridges and promoting local community food sharing apps and initiatives such as Olio.
 - Breakout group 5 discussed farmers markets, growing communities and growing schemes, food co-ops, community kitchens, food growing and allotments on estates & new builds and reducing the waiting time for allotments. They also suggested greater promotion of and opportunity to compost food waste, better food labelling and encouraging a reduction in beef consumption.
- **Repairing and mending**
 - Breakout group 1 discussed the Hackney Fixers and repairing electronics and other items.
 - Breakout group 2 suggested advertising electrical repair items.
 - Breakout group 3 discussed make do and mend initiatives.
 - Breakout group 4 stated that many people don't know how to fix items and suggested having a repair bus visit neighbourhoods.
- **Shared use and ownership**
 - Breakout group 1 discussed moving towards a culture of community ownership and shared use such as laundrettes and a library of things.
 - Breakout group 2 also discussed having more access to libraries of things. The group also suggested clothes swap initiatives and encouraged the Council to promote local sharing initiatives.
 - Breakout group 3 discussed how swapping and sharing can also build community.
 - Breakout group 4 stated that many people don't know how to access shared resources. They also discussed the library of things and the need for a centralised hiring hub and creating lending and giving initiatives.
- **Incentives to reduce consumption**
 - Breakout group 2 discussed incentives to decrease waste and use of the Edmonton incinerator.

- **Recycling**
 - Breakout group 2 suggested that the Council pay residents to recycle items such as bottles and plastic and provide better access to recycling liners.
 - Breakout group 3 suggested providing more information on recycling and promoting textile recycling.
 - Breakout group 4 discussed recycling hubs and promoting reusable containers and deposit schemes with local shops.
 - Breakout group 5 asked for clearer recycling instructions.
- **Council action around investment**
 - Breakout group 2 suggested giving Council pension holders the option to choose a lower carbon pension scheme.
- **Clothing**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested encouraging people to buy second hand clothing.
 - Breakout group 2 suggested that the council could work with TMOs and estates to promote clothes banks.
 - Breakout group 3 discussed the idea of “rebrand second hand” to promote second hand shops, in addition to promoting resale sites.
- **Schools & education**
 - Breakout group 4 discussed supporting initiatives in schools and promoting awareness of sustainability practices such as encouraging recycling days similar to World Book Day.
- **Other**
 - Breakout group 5 stated that palm oil should be banned.
 - Breakout group 5 also suggested promoting green businesses on new build sites.

Discussion question 2: Challenges

Taking some of these ideas and thoughts, what challenges can you imagine you might face with making these changes in how to get the most value out of what you buy?

- **Company vs individual efforts**
 - Breakout group 1 discussed the need for a joined up effort between individuals and companies to reduce the carbon footprint of consumption practices.
- **Finance & investment**
 - Breakout group 1 stated that finance and investment have the biggest share of consumption emissions within the Council.
- **Cost**
 - Breakout group 1 discussed the challenge of it being cheaper to buy new rather than repair.

- Breakout group 3 discussed the issue of poverty and the slow rate of change. The group discussed the challenge of ethical clothing being expensive which limits the option of buying sustainably for many people.
- Breakout group 4 also discussed the barrier of cost in Hackney where some areas are much more affluent than others.
- **Availability**
 - Breakout group 2 discussed the challenge of there being few local repair shops, making it more convenient to buy new.
 - Breakout group 5 discussed challenges to recycling including infrequent bin collection and lack of space for recyclable items.
- **Manufacturing & design**
 - Breakout group 2 discussed the issue with having to buy a new phone because of battery deterioration and the manufacturing and design choices that lead to more consumption, such as different ports and connectors between electronic devices.
- **Information**
 - Breakout group 2 wanted more information about reusing and extending the life of electronics.
 - Breakout group 4 stated that there needs to be an evidenced based campaign and that the Council should provide schools with ecological awareness tools.
 - Breakout group 5 raised the issue of lack of knowledge about recycling.
- **Disability and accessibility**
 - Breakout group 4 raised the issue of access for people with disabilities such as challenges transporting items borrowed from the library of things. The group suggested having a delivery service. The group also stated that it is hard for some people with disabilities to get to recycling banks.
- **National government**
 - Breakout group 4 raised the issue of political direction for change.
- **Difficulty enacting behavioural change**
 - Breakout group 4 stated that behaviour change takes time and is hard to bring about.
- **Food**
 - Breakout group 5 stated that it can be difficult to access vegetarian or vegan food in areas of the borough and suggested promoting vegetarian and vegan initiatives.

Discussion question 3: The Council

Thinking about these challenges and difficulties you've identified, how do you think the Council could help overcome them?

- **Skills and information**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested providing sewing, electrical repair, upskilling, food waste and cooking classes. Additionally, the group suggested the Council run sustainability workshops for business owners.
 - Breakout group 2 also suggested offering workshops and classes teaching residents how to fix items.
 - Breakout group 3 emphasised that it is important to consider diversity of needs and communication: “There are many people from different backgrounds and I think people from other communities might not understand how the consumption and waste works within the area so how can the council promote this topic in different languages?”
- **Education**
 - Breakout group 1 stated that the Council should educate residents by talking to schools and young people about sustainability. The group also suggested promoting sustainability through creative, free or affordable exhibitions, accessible videos and social media.
 - Breakout group 4 stated that waste in schools should be addressed and electronics and furniture should be recycled. Participants suggested encouraging children to use recycled clothing for World Book Day.
- **Financial actions**
 - Breakout group 1 stated that the Council should reduce emissions through investments and divest pension funds.
 - Breakout group 2 also asked for the Council to divest from fossil fuels and to divest pension funds.
- **Collaborative efforts**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested the Council advocate for collaboration between residents and companies.
 - Breakout group 2 suggested the council put pressure on companies and manufacturers to make it easier to fix electronics and access spare parts.
- **Incentivise change**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested the Council incentivise change by reducing business rates for mending and repairing businesses and businesses who commit to lowering their emissions.
 - Breakout group 2 discussed actions to reduce takeaway waste and suggested a sticker/badge system for shops that use compostable materials or avoid plastic. The group also suggested recycling fines.
 - Breakout group 3 suggested funding to help residents buy better quality, longer lasting items.

- Breakout group 4 also suggested reducing business rates for sustainable practices and incentives to encourage behaviour changes
- **Council services**
 - Breakout group 2 asked for more regular collections of electrical bins. The group also suggested changes to the Council's catering contracts to reduce red meat consumption and to make sure sustainable services are accessible to those without access to computers and technology.
 - Breakout group 3 suggested that the Council offer a community hub for spare items where members of the community can donate items. Additionally, the group suggested more investment in existing initiatives and embedding sustainability into area regeneration.
 - Breakout group 4 suggested the Council have staff go to sites to understand recycling issues and that the Council should put greater pressure on the Greater London Authority. The group also suggested greater promotion of Hackney Fixers and Library of Things, that the Council should introduce an item donation scheme and to introduce a scheme similar to LTNs for sustainability.
 - Breakout group 5 suggested the Council promote green initiatives such as grants, vegetarian eateries and direct growing communities, making recycling signage and policy clearer across estates and buildings, listen to residents' concerns regarding LTNs and incinerators, more accountability for fly tipping, for Council vehicles to go electric and expanding Hackney Fixers and promote the restart project initiative.
- **Food**
 - Breakout group 5 asked for the Council to encourage growing markets in less affluent areas of the borough and to provide more food bank spaces.
- **Changes to culture of consumption**
 - Breakout group 2 suggested the Council make changes to advertising including changing rules on advertising in the borough and changing advertising methods to reduce electrical, high carbon advertising. Other suggestions included a Council agenda to reduce building works on residential dwellings.
 - Breakout group 4 also suggested changes to advertising, such as limiting advertising of throwaway items on TFL.
- **Other comments**
 - Breakout group 2 discussed the need for a circular economy and the need for social justice to ensure residents have a good standard of living.

Workshop 2: Homes

Looking at the carbon emissions in our homes. Participants were given a scenario and three discussion questions. Participants were asked to discuss the scenario and questions from two angles:

- What actions can we individually take?
- What influence does the council have?

Scenario 2:

“With the current rise in energy prices, average energy bills are increasing by about £60 a month or £700 a year across the UK. The Chancellor says these higher energy prices are here for the long term. We’re going to talk today about the energy we use in our homes, and we want to get a sense of what residents think they could do to reduce their energy use, carbon emissions and bills in their own homes.”

For each discussion question, breakout groups discussed the following themes.

Discussion question 1: Alternatives

Please take a moment to think about what people could do or might already have done in their homes to reduce the energy they use or their carbon emissions. You might find it helpful to consider how they can use less energy, waste less energy or use greener energy supplies.

- **Rent controls**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested rent control as a way to prevent private landlords from taking advantage of grants for retrofitting properties by increasing rent.
- **Solar panels**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested solar panels.
 - Breakout group 2 suggested solar panels.
 - Breakout group 3 stated that solar panels are an option for people with the right type of priority and financial means.
- **Windows and glazing**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested better windows.
 - Breakout group 2 suggested replacing windows and installing triple glazing.
- **Lightbulbs**
 - Breakout group 2 suggested low energy lightbulbs.
 - Members of breakout group 4 stated that they used LED lighting.

- **Heating & insulation**
 - Breakout group 2 suggested foil behind the radiators and using heat pumps.
 - Members of breakout group 4 stated that they use homemade draught excluders or curtains in front of the door to keep heat in the house.
 - One member of breakout group 4 stated that they limit heating, use gloves, blankets and jumpers to reduce their heating bill. Other members of the group stated that they keep their thermostat at 18 degrees.
 - Breakout group 5 suggested insulating homes.
- **Water saving**
 - Breakout group 4 suggested not using the dishwasher until it is full.
 - Breakout group 5 suggested taking fewer baths and showering less frequently.
- **Mending & repairing**
 - Breakout group 2 suggested DIY measures to mend and repair items in the home.
- **Energy & bill saving**
 - Breakout group 2 suggested contacting energy suppliers to ensure you are on the best tariff.
 - Breakout group 3 stated that understanding energy labels can help people to save money and reduce CO2 emissions.
 - Breakout group 5 suggested making energy funds more available to households and suggested people switch energy providers or support a community energy bill. The group also suggested using tumble dryers less frequently.
- **Draft proofing**
 - Breakout group 2 suggested the Council could improve draft proofing at Council properties.
- **Ideas & education**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested the Council should provide information on how to save electricity and share energy saving advice websites.
 - Breakout group 3 stated that they were all implementing basic energy saving advice and wanted opportunities to do more.
 - Breakout group 4 suggested education on what energy saving options are available, how they can be used and for advice on inexpensive options.
- **Government investment**
 - Breakout group 1 stated that the government should increase investment in greener energy.

Discussion question 2: Challenges

Taking some of these ideas and thoughts, what challenges can you imagine you might face with making these changes to how you use energy in your own home?

- **Limitation of individual actions as a renter**
 - Breakout group 1 discussed how actions are limited for renters in private accommodation.
 - Breakout group 4 discussed the issue of not having control of where you live and the need for permission from landlords or the Council to make changes.
 - Breakout group 5 stated that renters don't have the same level of control as home-owners and minimal green options. The group also discussed that many Council tenants have no choice in energy providers and are required to use prepayment metres.
- **Knowing how to take action**
 - Breakout group 1 stated that it can be hard to know how to act and who to speak to such as the Council, housing associations, or private rented accommodation.
 - Breakout group 1 stated that having information on how to act and the ability to act is a challenge.
 - Breakout group 5 stated that it can be hard to access professional advice.
- **Cost**
 - Breakout group 1 stated that it can be expensive to switch providers. Additionally, the group discussed the rising prices of fuel, fuel poverty and the need for the Council to improve homes to help tenants. The group also discussed the need for financial support to enable residents to make green choices.
 - Breakout group 2 warned that home improvements are expensive and it can take a long time to reap the benefits. The group were concerned about whether rent would be increased to cover retrofitting costs and how people on low incomes could be supported. The group also discussed the issue of people having to make the choice between heating and food.
 - Breakout group 3 commented on rising heating costs and the issue of grants not being available to middle income groups who are assumed to be able to afford upgrades.
 - Breakout group 4 stated that solar panels and heat pumps are expensive and can take a long time to repay the investment.
 - Breakout group 5 discussed the high cost of double glazing and solar panels, the difficulty getting grants for single brick homes and reductions in grants.

- **Wind energy**
 - Breakout group 1 stated that as an inner London Council, Hackney may not have enough wind speed to generate electricity.
- **Question of choice**
 - Breakout group 2 discussed the challenges of balancing mould prevention and condensation with heat conservation.
 - Breakout group 3 stated that there is a lack of choice or agency for some residents.
- **National government**
 - Breakout group 3 stated that the issue needs central government action.
- **Limitations to individual efforts / onus on the Council**
 - Breakout group 3 stated that there are limits to individual actions and expressed frustration at the focus on individual actions. The group stated that the Council needs to address issues and renovations at Council properties.
 - Breakout group 5 stated that there should be restrictions on property development and use of green space.
- **Disability and accessibility**
 - Breakout group 3 stated that there are additional challenges for disabled people, including the ability to access recycling.
 - Breakout group 4 discussed the barrier of access to computers for some people, limiting their ability to switch suppliers..
- **Restrictions on actions**
 - Breakout group 5 discussed conservation issues and red tape for people who want to install solar panels.

Discussion question 3: The Council

Thinking about these challenges and difficulties you've identified, how do you think the Council could help overcome them?

- **Investments & funding**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested investment into greener energy.
 - Breakout group 3 discussed reducing the cost and availability of solar panels and increasing access to grants, including boiler grants for homeowners and suggested connecting this funding to the Green Home grants.
 - Breakout group 5 suggested expanding Green Homes beyond private home owners, providing more grants to help residents become greener and making funds more available to residents.
- **Incentives**
 - Breakout group 1 suggested incentives for landlords to invest in upgrades to private rented accommodation.

- **Information & advertising**

- Breakout group 1 suggested advertising more ways to save electricity such as using electric toothbrushes, running taps etc. The group also stated that Council grant information is not clear and should provide more initiatives and advice for renters.
- Breakout group 2 suggested more advertising of funding and grants available and for access to advisors and consultants to do home visits and offer advice.
- Breakout group 3 suggested education for people to understand energy labels to help them save money & reduce CO2.
- Breakout group 4 suggested providing an information pack on how to access support and make changes in your home.
- Breakout group 5 suggested the Council raise awareness of energy saving schemes and provide information on how to apply for funding.

- **Advocating for tenants**

- Breakout group 1 suggested that the Council speak to and work with landlords on behalf of tenants to ensure green initiatives are followed. The group also suggested the Council advocate for tenants to ensure they are protected from rent increases as a result of improvement schemes.
- Breakout group 4 suggested the Council could put pressure on private landlords to retrofit properties on behalf of tenants and advocate for tenants of housing associations.

- **Work with landlords**

- Breakout group 2 suggested working with landlords, particularly larger housing providers, actions to enforce measures for private landlords and applying legal standards.
- Breakout group 5 suggested working with landlords to reduce delays in recognising and dealing with energy issues.

- **Council actions & responsibilities**

- Breakout group 1 stated that it is the Council's responsibility to retrofit Council homes. The group also asked for an easier system for project approval on estates and in Council homes.
- Breakout group 2 suggested a retrofit home show, like the Waltham Forest Victorian eco show home and demonstrate initiatives. The group also suggested offering apprenticeships in retrofit and home upgrades training, in addition to window replacements across Council properties and leading on public energy campaigns. Other council actions included supporting residents experiencing fuel poverty and pushing for a universal basic income.
- Breakout group 3 stated that the Council should keep housing renovations up to date, should provide every property with a shower and energy efficient heating as a minimum and that planning schemes should be required to be A + energy class compliant. The

group additionally suggested lobbying the government regarding fossil fuels and discussed Hackney Light and Power.

- Breakout group 4 stated the responsibility for action should not just sit with residents.
- Breakout group 5 suggested that Council new builds should be built to passivhaus standards, working more closely with local energy initiatives.

Zoom Insight

While at the start of the climate summit the facilitator informed participants that summit facilitators would not be able to directly respond to questions and comments in the Zoom chat, participants used the chat function on Zoom to contribute their thoughts and opinions during the event.

From the transcript of the zoom chat, the following themes were identified.

Event & presentation questions:

- How the two themes of the summit had been chosen.
- Why the summit focused on individual rather than Council actions to limit climate change.
- A request for an explanation of how the climate summit was a citizen's assembly and if the event would be part of an ongoing conversation.
- A question relating to a pie chart showing the Council's residential and transport emissions compared to Hackney as a whole.
- How participants had been selected and invited to the climate summit and what level of representation there was from stakeholders, businesses and community organisations in Hackney.
- Whether embedded carbon was included in the presentation figures relating to building emissions.
- A question about the benefits of housing insulation compared to rising fuel prices.

Climate Summit event comments:

- One participant requested an agenda for the event.
- One participant asked for the summit slides to be shared with participants.
 - Summit slides were shared with participants after the event.
- One participant asked for the Climate Action Plan to be shared with participants.
 - As set out in Next Steps, the Council is currently developing a Climate Action Plan which will be released in draft for public consultation later this year.
- One participant commented on the presentation statistics on waste.
- Comments about the breakout rooms and the breakout group discussions.
- One participant expressed surprise at data in the pre-engagement materials.
- Participants responded to the pre-break quiz question.
- One participant stated a preference for future events to be online events, due to the ongoing risk of Covid-19.
- One participant commented on the level of Council influence on borough-wide emissions.

Suggestions for Council actions in the community:

- One participant suggested Council notice boards for residents to share tools and information.
- One participant suggested workshops for local business owners on actions they can take to limit the impact of climate change.
- One participant suggested the Council impose higher business taxes on food take-away businesses.
- One participant suggested raising the profile of fairtrade shops in Hackney.
- One participant suggested introducing a reduced carbon footprint badge.
- One participant asked for the Council to apply for government grants to support sustainability and climate action.
- Two participants discussed issues with and lack of double glazing in Council and privately rented housing.

Sharing of resources:

- Participants shared a number of resources during the event including:
 - A participant's children's clothing bank
 - Participants shared the names of bulk stores and sustainable businesses in Hackney.
 - [London Assembly report](#) about ventilation and insulation
 - [Passivhaus Trust](#) information
 - Information related to renewable energy and energy bill savings:
 - [Power for the People](#) bill
 - [Hackney SHINE](#) energy advice
 - [Hackney Council's Green Estates](#) scheme
 - [Energy Saving Trust](#)
 - [Stokey Energy](#) group
 - [London Renters Union](#)
 - A [Manchester retrofitting project](#)

Other participant comments & conversation:

- One participant commented on the environmental impact of digital advertising.
- One participant commented on the amount of waste in schools.
- Participants discussed growing communities, debated the expense of growing communities and farmers markets and encouraged others to grow their own food.
- One participant commented on recycling facilities used by Council tenants.
- Participants commented on the energy crisis, the need for bills to be more affordable and the health benefits of tackling fuel poverty.
- One participant commented on wind farms and renewable energy.
- One participant commented on the library of things at Dalston CLR James library.
- Participants debated whether schools should provide vegan or dairy and/or meat free meals to children.

- Respondents discussed the clothes manufacturing industry in Hackney and abroad.
- One participant suggested a voluntary wealth tax to combat fuel poverty.
- One participant suggested that schools should provide more education on energy savings.

Feedback Survey

Executive Summary

- **How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the event overall?**
 - The majority of respondents, 75% (18), were satisfied with the event overall. 46% (11) were very satisfied.
- **How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the presentation content?**
 - The majority of respondents, 83% (20), were satisfied with the presentation content.
- **How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with Workshop 1: Consumption?**
 - The majority of respondents, 58% (14), were satisfied with workshop 1.
- **How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with Workshop 2: Homes?**
 - The majority of respondents, 67% (16), were satisfied with workshop 2.
- **Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve future events?**
 - 20 respondents offered suggestions to improve future events.
- **How likely or unlikely are you to attend another climate summit event in the future?**
 - All of the respondents stated that they were likely to attend an event in the future.
- **If you were to attend a future climate summit, would you prefer the event to be:**
 - The highest percentage of respondents, 46% (11), stated that they would prefer to attend a hybrid event in the future.

Do you have any suggestions for how we could improve future events?

Respondents were asked to offer additional suggestions for how we could improve future events. 20 respondents offered suggestions.

Positive comments:

- Six respondents made positive comments.
- Respondents commented that they enjoyed the event, presentations and workshop discussions.
- *"I really enjoyed the event, learned new things from reading and viewing the pre- meeting material. I enjoyed listening to some very switched-on participants, and seeing their passion."*
- *"Was a very good event. Well organised and interesting."*

Critical comments:

- Four respondents were critical of the event.

- Respondents expressed frustration with the focus on individual rather than Council actions to limit the impact of climate change, and criticised the summit as a citizen's assembly, the presentations and invitation of participants.
- *"I found it frustrating that, particularly the first breakout, was really focused on individual actions, which in the grand scheme of things do little. It would be better to talk about bigger problems. I also found that our moderator kept bringing in her own experiences, which was fine, but she started to somewhat dominate the conversation so possibly more moderator training would be good."*

Event resources:

- Two respondents requested access to summit resources including a transcript of the Zoom discussion and the sharing of resources shared by participants during the event.

Workshop feedback:

- Seven respondents commented on the workshops.
- Three respondents asked for the workshops to be longer. Two respondents would have preferred more time to discuss in workshop groups and more time to report on group discussions.
- Two respondents asked for workshop moderators to receive more training ahead of future workshops.
- One respondent commented on the ability to make workshop contributions via the Zoom chat.

Changes to future events:

- Two respondents wanted a longer event.
- One respondent wanted the summit to cover a wider content area and give more opportunity for respondents to offer their views.
- Two respondents asked for a Q&A section within the event.
- One respondent asked for future events to use a more mobile-friendly platform.

Council actions:

- Two respondents asked for more information on the Council's actions and plans to limit the impact of climate change both during and after the event.
- *"Wider content and more cross issue content such as education/schools. More opportunity to put own points of view instead of reacting to prompts set by the council which are restrictive. Assurance that our ideas/comments will be used/acted upon instead of coming in after the Climate Action plan is drawn up - at which point our views will presumably be too late."*

No suggestions:

- Two respondents stated that they had no suggestions.

Next Steps

The insight gathered from the event will be used to inform the preparation of the Climate Action Plan (CAP), principally through their consideration as part of the development of the implementation plans for the Consumption emissions and Retrofit thematic action and where relevant other themes.

Community engagement will form a key part of the public consultation phase of the CAP planned for later this year, as will ongoing engagement to further shape the delivery of the CAP once it is adopted in respect of specific projects.

A more detailed community engagement plan will be developed as the CAP moves to the consultation stage and will be further set out in the Cabinet report later this year to approve the CAP for external consultation.

Lessons learned

Across the event and event planning the climate summit officers identified the following lessons learned during the engagement. The insight in this report, including the feedback from participants, and the lessons learned will help the Council to deliver successful future climate events.

1. Event planning & structure
 - The planning team would benefit from more lead in time to plan future climate events. In the case of the climate summit, this would have provided more opportunity to increase representation among participants to align more with borough-wide demographics.
 - Participants and Council officers alike would benefit from confirming the event date at an earlier stage.
 - Participants would benefit from an agenda and clearer information on the aims and structure of the event.
2. Event participation
 - Participants want more time to discuss workshop themes and more time to share their feedback with the wider group.
 - Participants additionally want more opportunity to ask questions to Council members and officers and the opportunity to share their own views.
 - When planning future external engagement further consideration should be made as to the best approach to meeting the needs of an audience where as a result of the diverse range of levels of understanding of the climate change agenda, some participants

were less happy with the content and approach.

- On multiple occasions, participants asked for the focus to be shifted away from resident actions to Council actions to limit the impact of climate change. Future events should consider how better to present the rationale for the focus on individual actions while providing an overview of Hackney Council's climate actions.